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COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICE USDA

ATT. William T. Sessions ASS. Deputy Administrator

Stop 0249 Room 2092-S

1400 Independence Avenue SW,

Washington, DC. 20250-0249

November 2, 2002

Dear Mr. Sessions,

I am a life long pecan producer from Thomas County, Georgia. My Father was before me.

Mr. Sessions, the reason for this letter: I was told pecans were not included in the Country of Origin Labeling Bill. We would very much like to see this labeling of Country Origin on pecans. It is just as much a nut as is peanuts, and it is just as important to our industry as fruits and vegetables are to their industries. The public needs to be aware of where their pecans were produced for safety reasons.

For example, Mexican pecan producers can use insecticides on pecans that have been banned in America, such as Ethel Di Bromide, Zolon and Nemagon. If these chemicals are so unsafe for our product, the American public needs to be aware of these countries of origin. Also, in Mexico they irrigate from canals with contaminated water. At present the Mexican pecan producers are killing our markets since they can use these products which have been banned for use in America, producing their pecans at a cheaper price.

The American shelling plants will go to Mexico to buy pecans and not buy American pecans, thus busting the market, by making the farmers and accumulators fill up their storages with pecans to drive the prices down.

If a sheller pays a Mexican grower 50¢ a pound in our American currency, the Mexican grower makes a windfall of profit on the currency exchange from dollars to peso's. Furthermore, for what my government makes me pay one man per hour, A Mexican grower can work one man a full day.

It would help our industries tremendously if we had a Country of Origin Label on pecans. I am sure that the public would buy the safer pecans with the USA label, which would help the prices we get for our pecans.

Thank you, Mr. Sessions, for your time and your help on behalf of all pecan growers in the USA.

Sincerely,



Joey Collins  
Collins Pecan Groves

cc: Congressman Saxby Chamblis  
Congressman Sanford Bishop